

TREASURE

OUR

indiana

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

miles of coastline
45

coastal population in 2000
741,468

fy03 czma core (section 306)
funding
\$1,150,000

THE INDIANA COASTAL ZONE INCLUDES ALL OF THE WATERS, SHORELANDS, ESTUARINE AREAS, AND WETLANDS THAT DIRECTLY AND SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT INDIANA'S PORTION OF LAKE MICHIGAN. THIS INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 604 SQUARE MILES OF LAND AND APPROXIMATELY 241 SQUARE MILES OF LAKE MICHIGAN. THESE REGIONS ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR INDIANA'S ECONOMY. THE LAKE MICHIGAN SHORE IS HOME TO THE FIFTH LARGEST OIL REFINERY IN THE WORLD, 25% OF THE NATION'S STEEL PRODUCTION, AND THE BUSIEST PORT IN THE GREAT LAKES (PORT OF INDIANA, 1994). TOURISM AND RECREATION ARE ALSO IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY IN THE EXTENSIVE INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK AND NATIONAL LAKESHORE. THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF INDIANA'S COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

THE CZMA IN INDIANA

The CZMA establishes programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level.

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Management Program

Approved: 2002

Lead Agency: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Soil Conservation

Indiana's objective in developing a coastal management program is to establish a comprehensive, coordinated approach for the protection, preservation, and orderly development of the state's coastal resources. Indiana's most challenging coastal issues include public access to the shore, beach closures, water quality, brownfields, dredging, shoreline erosion, and preservation of natural areas.



Goals of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program include:

- *the protection and preservation of wetlands, beaches, fish and wildlife habitats, natural areas, prime agricultural land, endangered plant and animal species, and other significant natural coastal resources;*
- *the management of shoreline development to: prevent loss of life and property in coastal flood hazard areas and coastal erosion areas; set priorities for water-dependent energy, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and recreational uses; and identify environmentally acceptable sites for dredged spoil disposal;*
- *increased public access to Lake Michigan and other public places in the coastal area;*
- *the protection and preservation of historical, cultural, or aesthetic coastal resources;*
- *improved predictability and efficiency of governmental decision-making related to coastal area management; and*
- *the redevelopment of deteriorating and underutilized waterfronts and ports.*

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

The state's newly approved Coastal Management Program will be hosting the annual Great Lakes Regional Meeting in October 2003.